

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/671,756

Examiner

Tan T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

VERNENKER ET AL.

Art Unit

2827

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (~~OR REMAINS~~) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application filed on September 26, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11 and 16-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 09/26/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



**TAN T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2500**

1. The Information Disclosure Statement submitted by Applicants on September 26, 2003 has been received and fully considered.
2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-11, 16-21, drawn to a memory array having bit line exchanges associated with selected row of first and second memory port and method of using the memory array, classified in class 365, subclass 230.05.
 - II. Claims 12-15, drawn to a memory driver, classified in class 365, subclass 230.06.
3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:
4. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention II has separate utility such as the memory driver of Group II would be used in an address decoder, while the memory array in Group I would be used as a multi-port memory. See MPEP § 806.05(d).
5. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.
6. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Mark Becker on February 15, 2005 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-11, 16-21. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to

this Office action. Claims 12-15 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

7. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Mark Becker on February 15, 2005.

8. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claims 12-15 have been canceled.

In claim 19, line 3, after the words "first memory port", the word --at -- has been inserted.

9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art to the present invention is Wik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,370,078). Wik et al. disclosed a multi-port memory device having complementary bit lines are switched between a core cell and a modified core cell. Wik et al. failed to show or suggest the limitation of a plurality of bit lines for each column wherein bit lines associated with a first memory port include a bit line exchanged associated with a first selected row of memory cells, and the bit lines associated with at least a second memory port includes a bit line exchange associated with a selected row of memory cell, wherein the first selected row and the second selected row are different. The prior art also failed to show or suggest the steps of associating bit line exchanges with the bit lines of at least two memory ports, wherein the bit line exchanges for at least two

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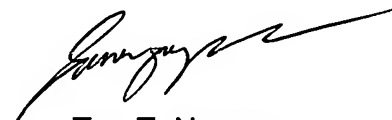
memory ports are associated with different rows as claimed in claims 16-18, or the steps of interchanging complementary bit lines associated with a first and second memory ports, respectively, at at least a first and second rows, wherein the second row is different from the first row as claimed in claims 19-21.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tan T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1789. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 07:00 AM to 03:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hoai Ho, can be reached at (571) 272-1777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tan T. Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2827
February 15, 2005